

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 13761 260601Z

46

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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R 251500Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7145

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 13761

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: KAGNEW FOUR - BRIEFING ETHIOPIAN GOVT

REF: STATE 276497

1. AMB TODAY (NOV 25) CONVEYED PARAS 1, A, B, C, REFTEL TO FONMIN KIFLE. AMB ALSO SAID THAT "FOREIGN JOURNALISTS" HAD TOLD US THAT CISCO TWO ARE IN VICINITY OF ELGHENA AND KAGNEW TWO NEAR TESSENEI, AND AMB URGED CONTINUED EPMG ADHERENCE TO EARLIER UNDERSTANDING THAT NO HOSTILE ACTIONS, SUCH AS AERIAL BOMBING, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN IN THOSE VICINITIES.

2. AMB ALSO URGED ONCE AGAIN THAT EPMG AGREE TO BROADCAST FAMILY MESSAGES AS WE HAD REQUESTED REPEATEDLY AND FOR SOME TIME.

3. KIFLE MERELY ACKNOWLEDGED ALL THIS, ASKING NO QUESTIONS AND NOT VOLUNTEERING ANY COMMENT.

4. AMB DID NOT MENTION CONCERN OVER REPORTS THAT EPMG HAD BOMBED VILLAGES THROUGH WHICH KAGNEW TWO HAD JUST PASSED (PARA TWO REFTEL)EPMG HAS ASSURED US MANY TIMES THAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAKING DUE CARE NOT TO ENDANGER LIVES OF CAPTURED AMERICANS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE EPMG WOULD KNOWINGLY BOMB VILLAGES WHERE AMERICANS WERE KNOWN TO BE LOCATED. BUT PROBLEM IS ONE OF RELIABLE INTELLIGENCE. FROM THEIR OWN REPORTS, PRISONERS ARE OFTEN MOVED

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AROUND. NEITHER WE NOR ETHIOPIANS KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AT ANY

GIVEN TIME. THEREFORE, UNLESS WE HAVE PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE THAT ETHIOPIANS KNEW IN ADVANCE OF A BOMBING THAT AMERICANS WERE IN VICINITY, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT USEFUL IN EFFECT TO ACCUSE EPMG OF SUCH AN ACTION.

5. POL COUNSELOR COVERED GROUND CITED PARA 1 ABOVE ALSO WITH NATIONAL POLICE COMMISSIONER BG BERHANE TEFERRA. LATTER EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND SAID HE WOULD PASS INFO TO COL. KALEKRISTOS IN ASMARA. IF KALEKRISTOS, WHO HAS BEEN IN ADDIS FOR WEEK AND JUST GOT BACK TO HIS POST, HAD ANY COMMENT ON LOCATIONS OF OUR CAPTIVES, HE WOULD LET EMBASSY KNOW.

HUMMEL

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NNN

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